

CHESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD  
DECEMBER 15, 2015 MINUTES

**1. Call to Order –**

Chairman Melba Matthews called the December 15, 2015 meeting of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (BOARD) to order at 2:01 p.m. in Room 170, GSC.

The following Board Members were in attendance: Melba Matthews, Chairman; Richard Abbott; Donald Cairns; Amy McKenna; Bill Covaleski; and Eli Silberman.

Staff: Tom Abrahamsen, Solicitor; Bill Gladden, DOSP Director; Geoffrey Shellington; Veronica Protesto; and Annette Bethke.

Absent: John Diament, Mark Dunphy, and Duane Hershey

Visitors: None

**2. Public Comment -**

No public comment.

**3. Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2015**

The Board meeting minutes were approved as sent. Motion made by Eli Silberman, seconded by Richard Abbott. Motion carried.

**4. Compliance End of Year Presentation – Veronica Protesto**

Ms. Protesto made a presentation on the activities and accomplishments of DOSP Compliance.

- 221 compliance visits totaling 16,500 acres inspected with 30 farms scheduled for follow up to address issues and/or concerns
- 19 projects in the Federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- 6 conservation plans written for revenue of \$6,185.20.
- 5 plans currently under contract for 2016
- AgTeam Meetings attended by DOSP, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Chester County Conservation District to discuss conservation practices, plans being written, and assistance programs for easement owners.
- DOSP has acquired a NRCS laptop with access to Toolkit and USDA geodata.

Ms. Protesto ended the presentation with slides showing before and after pictures of farms that have implemented conservation practices.

**5. State Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Status Report**

**2012 Round – 50% Donation**

Pannell, Bootsie ----- Offer Accepted – Londonderry Township  
Pannell Revocable Trust ----- Offer Accepted – Londonderry Township

**2013 Round**

King, Levi and Emma ----- Offer Accepted – West Sadsbury Township

**2014 Round**

Elvin, Roger ----- Offer Accepted – Newlin & East Marlborough Townships

**2015 Round**

Warwick Yoder LP ----- Settlement Complete – Warwick Township  
Brown Partnership #1 ----- Offer Extended – New London Township  
McDowell, Elizabeth ----- Offer Extended – New London Township  
Jones, Pownall ----- Board Review – New Garden Township  
King, Clair ----- Board Review – Upper Oxford Township

**6. Challenge Grant Program – Status Report**

**2014 Round**

Elliot, Ronald ----- Offer accepted – East Coventry Township  
Kulp, Edward ----- Offer accepted – North Coventry Township

**2015 Round**

Pyle, Thomas ----- Offer Extended – Warwick Township

**7. Updates and Other Business –**

- 2016 meeting dates were approved. Motion made by Amy McKenna, seconded by Richard Abbott. Motion carried. Listing of approved dates is attached to these minutes.
- Eli Silberman reported on recent zoning passed by Newlin Township that places additional limits on equestrian uses. Mr. Silberman reported that the legality of the ordinance has been challenged under the state ACRE legislation and is being examined by the state Attorney General’s Office.

**8. Executive Session –**

- Summary of formal complaint re: Arborganics – Bill Gladden
- Response to formal complaint – Tom Abrahamsen
- Appraisals (2)

**9. Adjournment –** Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Richard Abbott, seconded by Donald Cairns. Motion carried.

**10. Next Meeting –** January 26, 2016 at 2:00 PM, room 170, GSC.

**Chester County  
Agricultural Land Preservation Board  
2016 Meeting Dates**

Government Services Center 2:00 PM

(Fourth Tuesday of Each Month, unless otherwise noted)

January 26, 2016 – Room 170

February 23, 2016 – Room 170

March 22, 2016 – Room 250

April 26, 2016

May 24, 2016

June 28, 2016

July 26, 2016

August 23, 2016

September 27, 2016

October 25, 2016

November 15, 2016– Third Tuesday

December 20, 2016– Third Tuesday